



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

REGION 6
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950432
LO

January 3, 1996

Mr. Paul Tanner
Assistant District Manager
Bureau of Land Management
221 North Service Road
Moore, Oklahoma 73160-4946

Dear Mr. Tanner:

In accordance with our responsibilities under Section 309 of the Clean Air Act, the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), and the Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ) Regulations for Implementing NEPA, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Region 6 office in Dallas, Texas, has completed its review of the US Department of the Interior, Bureau of Land Management (BLM), Texas Resource Management Plan (RMP) and Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS).

The Draft RMP and DEIS describes and analyzes three alternatives for managing the Federally owned minerals, specifically oil and gas, within the State of Texas. The RMP/DEIS fulfills the requirements of comprehensive land-use planning for public lands in accordance with the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976. All actions within this document conform to and are designed to meet the requirements of all applicable laws. The three alternatives assessed address the degree to which Federal oil and gas leasing will be followed. The three alternatives include: continuation of present management (no action), intensive surface protection (preferred alternative), and no leasing.

Under the preferred action, approximately 20 wells per year could be drilled on Federal oil and gas leases within the State. Compared with the fact that approximately 5,160 wells per year are projected to be drilled on non-Federal leases within the State, Federal leasing of only 20 wells per year should not cause a significant impact on the State's mineral resources or the environment.

EPA classifies your DEIS and preferred action as "LO," i.e., EPA has "Lack of Objections". Our classification will be published in the Federal Register according to our responsibility under Section 309 of the Clean Air Act, to inform the public of our views on proposed Federal actions.



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